

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 120746Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1038
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 SEOUL 3997

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV KS KN
SUBJ: PRC PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG'S VISIT TO PYONGYANG

1. HUA KUO-FENG AND HIS ENTOURAGE VISITED TTE DPRK FROM 5
TO 10 MAY. PYONGYANG ROLLED OUT THE RED CARPET FOR HUA'S
VISIT, AFFORDING HIM
THE SPECIAL TREATMENT ONE WOULD
EXPECT FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY. HUA
TRAVELED BY SPECIAL TRAIN FROM PEKING TO PYONGTANG, ALTHOUGH
THE TRAIN WAS MET AT SINUIJU ON THE KOREAN-CHINESE BORDER BY
A DPRK WELCOMING COMMITTEE. KIM IL SONG HOSTED A BANQUET
ON TTE NIGHT OF 5 MAY AND A MASS RALLY WAS HELD ON 7 MAY
IN
PYONGYANG. HUA TRAVELED TO HAMHUNG AND VISITED SEVERAL
FACORIES ON MAY 8-9. A BANQUET WAS HELD IN HAMHUNG ON
THENIGHT OF MAY 8. ON THENIGHT OFHAY 9, HUA HOSTED A BANQUET
IN PYONGYANG. ON THE MORNING OF MAY (&, HUA DEPARTED
PYONGYANG BY SPECIAL TRAIN TO RETURN TOTEKING.

2. SPEECHES BY BOTH KIM AHD HUA AT THE TWO BANQUETS

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AND THE RALLY IN PYONGYANG PROVIDED LITTLE SUBSTANCE
FOR ANALYSIS. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NORMENTION OF
SPECIFIC ISSUES, SUCH AS ECONOMIC AID OR MILITARY AFFAIRS.
THE SPEECHES LAUDED THE OTHER'S SUCCESSES IN DEVELOPING
SOCIALIST MODEL. KIM LAUDED THE LATE CHAIRMAN MAO
AND CHOU EN-LAI FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN BRINGING THE
CHINESE MAINLAND AND PEOPLE ALONG THE ROAD OF SOCIALIST

DEVELOPMENT. CHAIRMAN HUA WAS LAUDED FOR HIS CONTINUING THE POLICIES INSTIGATED BY MAO AND HIS SUCCESS IN ERADICATING THE "GANG OF FOUR". FORMERLY PART, HUA WAS CONSIDERABLY MORE BELLICOSE CONDEMNING THE U.S. AND THE ROK FOR THE DIVISION OF KOREA AND DEVELOPING A "TWO KOREAS POLICY". HUA LAUDED THE "MIRACLES" NORTH KOREA HAS ACHIEVED BOTH IN INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE UNDER THE DIRECTION OF KIM IL SUNG.

3. THERE WAS NO HINT THAT THE CHINESE ARE WILLING OR ABLE TO HELP THE DPRK OUT OF ITS ECONOMIC DOLDRUMS. IN FACT, HUA'S FINAL SPEECH AT THE MAY 9 BANQUET COULD BE INTERPRETED AS VOCAL SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA'S "CHUCHE" OR SELF-RELIANCE POLICY.

4. THE VISIT DID, HOWEVER, PUT ON THE FRONT OF SOLID FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES AND PARTIES. BOTH KIM AND HUA WERE EFFUSIVE IN THEIR PRAISE FOR THE SOLID FOUNDATION INHERENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. IN HUA'S FINAL SPEECH, HE STATED THAT "THE CHINESE PEOPLE WILL STAND FIRMLY BY YOU IN YOUR STRUGGLE FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF YOUR COUNTRY". HE ALSO STATED IN THE SPEECH THAT "IN THE DAYS TO COME, THE PEOPLES OF CHINA WILL FOREVER REMAIN CLOSELY UNITED AND FIGHT SHOULDER TO SHOULDER".

5. FROM THE CHINESE SIDE, THE VISIT TO THE DPRK WAS
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A LOGICAL MOVE. HUA HAS NEVER TRAVELED OUTSIDE CHINA ON A STATE VISIT. THE VISIT TO THE DPRK PROVIDED HIM WITH SEVERAL POSITIVE ASPECTS:

--HE WAS ABLE TO TRAVEL BY TRAIN, PROVIDING THE GREATEST DEGREE OF SAFETY.

--THERE IS PROBABLY NO OTHER COUNTRY IN THE WORLD THAT COULD PROVIDE A CHINESE LEADER WITH THE DEGREE OF SECURITY THAT THE DPRK CAN.

--RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN ON A WARMING TREND OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AS EVIDENCED BY THE DPRK'S SUPPORT FOR CAMBODIA AND THE FULL-HEARTED SUPPORT FOR HUA'S ERADICATION OF THE "GANG OF FOUR".

--BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS A LIKE-MINDED POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE, THEREBY AFFORDING COMPLEMENTARY POLICY APPROACHES.

--THEY HAVE FOUGHT TOGETHER IN A WAR.

--THE VISIT TO THE DPRK, GIVEN THE SECURITY,
SAFETY AND FRIENDSHIP THERE PROVIDED
HUA WITH THE
NEEDED EXPERIENCE PRELIMINARY TO HIS STATE VISITS
ELSEWHERE, WHICH HAVE BEEN RUMORED OF LATE.

6. FOR THE DPRK, THE VISIT PROVIDED A MUCH NEEDED SHOT
IN THE ARM DURING A PERIOD WHEN AGRICULTURE DUE TO
DROUGHT, FOREIGN TRADE AND THE ECONOMY IN GENERAL HAS
BEEN IN A DECLINE. FURTHER, HUA'S VISIT IS THE FIRST
STATE VISIT SINCE MAO WENT TO MOSCOW IN 1957. PYONGYANG
PROBABLY VIEWED THE HUA VISIT AS ADDING CONSIDERABLE
PRESTIGE AND SIGNIFICANCE TO THE DPRK'S INTERNATIONAL
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POSITION. CHINESE SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA'S TERMS FOR
REUNIFICATION CERTAINLY DID NOT HURT THE DPRK AT A POINT
IN TIME WHEN THE DPRK'S POSITION IN THE THIRD WORLD
HAS BEEN SLIPPING. IN FACT, IT MAY HAVE GIVEN SOME
ADDITIONAL LEVERAGE TO THE DPRK'S CLAIMS IN THE NON-
ALIGNED.

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R 120746Z MAY 78
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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 SEOUL 3997

7. HUA AND KIM HELD PRIVATE TALKS BUT THERE IS NO FIRM INDICATION OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED. IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT CHINESE SUPPLY OF OIL, WHICH IS REPORTED TO BE ON THE DECLINE, WAS DISCUSSED AS WELL AS NORTH KOREAN VIEWS ON REUNIFICATION. THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS REPORTS OF BEHIND-THE-SCENES MANEUVERING ON TRIPARTITE AND FOUR PARTY TALKS. KIM AND HUA ALMOST CERTAINLY DISCUSSED THESE POINTS DURING THE VISIT ALSO.

8. OVERALL, THE VISIT APPEARED TO BE AN EFFORT BY BOTH SIDES TO REAFFIRM THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE TWO AND TO PUT FORTH AN AIR OF CONTINUED FRIENDSHIP AS ASIAN NEIGHBORS. THERE WAS NO HINT OF DISCORD EVIDENT FROM THE SPEECHES. ALTHOUGH THE VISIT HAD ALL THE EARMARKS OF A LARGELY CEREMONIAL VISIT, IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES WERE DISCUSSED, ALTHOUGH AT THIS TIME WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON THE ISSUES THAT MAY HAVE BEEN RAISED.

9. THE TWO COUNTRIES DID NOT ANNOUNCE EITHER A FINAL SECRET

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COMMUNIQUE OR THE SERIES OF CEREMONIAL END-OF-VISIT AGREEMENTS WHICH ARE A USUAL FEATURE OF STATE VISITS TO PYONGYANG. WITH SO LITTLE SUBSTANCE AVAILABLE FROM THE SPEECHES, AND WITH CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND SIMILAR INTERCHANGES ALREADY A REGULAR FEATURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PRC AND THE DPRK, IT MAY HAVE BEEN FELT THAT THE ONLY VALUE OF A FINAL COMMUNIQUE OR SERIES OF AGREEMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN TO REITERATE PLEDGES OF FRIENDSHIP ALREADY MADE AND DESIRABLE EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS ALREADY IN EFFECT.
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